HORROR
TALES
AUGUST
1974
75¢
A SUPER SHOCKER
THE
VAMPIRES
A BLOOD DRAINING
MASTERPIECE
THE SPIRIT
OF EVIL
PLUS
Horror With
THE
BROOMSTICK
WITCH!

KING KONG

Item 639K.....King Kong.....$1.00
Item 639B. Beast From 20,000 fathoms 1.00
ORDER BOTH for $1.75 and save

WORM TRICK

These innocent looking pellets magically turn to worms when dropped in a glass of water. Horrify your friends with this harmless trick.
No. 612 25c

COMPLETE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR KIT

★ BADGE ★ CARRYING CASE
★ SPECIAL I. D. CARD

ONLY $2.75

This professional type detective badge kit and case includes an extra heavy silvered nickle badge for use by private and special investigators PLUS authentic-type case and I.D. Card. Impress your friends with this official looking novelty. No.860...$2.75

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Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless. Only 35c
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VAMPIRE B-L-O-O-D

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NO 549 25¢

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Light one and watch the column of thick white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.
No. 871 25c

MAGIC CARDS

Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks
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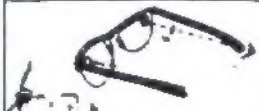
SEE BEHIND GLASSES



A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing that you're watching
No. 8063 75¢

HOT PEPPER GUM

Lots of FUN passing out this Spearmint Gum with Hot Pepper added. Regulation pack, 5 sticks in colly wrapped package to keep it fresh.
A121 25¢

SILENT DOG WHISTLE

This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can, hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.
No. 701 $1.00

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PEN SIZE—CLIPS ON YOUR POCKET. 6 POWER MAGNIFIER
Six power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument.
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No. 239 Only 50c

RAQUEL WELCH PILLOW

ONLY $1.98 What man wouldn't enjoy spending a night with Raquel Welch? Well, we can't deliver her, but we can deliver that next best thing —a 12" x 24" inflatable pillow of Raquel made of rugged vinyl to serve as your headrest. Keep her for yourself or show her to your friends. Livens up party when everyone sees and feels this great gag item.
RR15....$1.98

MUSCLES OF STEEL

Results in just 30 days
Pocket gym slaps inches of muscle on your arms and torso. Gain the respect of your friends —the admiration of the girls. Keep fit and healthy. Fear no one! Made of heavy rubber
No. 7301 only $1.00

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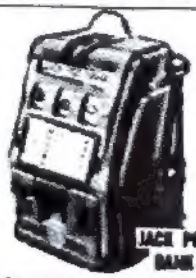
Place on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream
No. 247 50c

ONION GUM

Looks like regl chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 slices to a pack
No. 281 20c

JACK POT BANK



Dime-operated "one armed Bandit" works like those in Las Vegas. Deposit dime, pull handle, and reels spin like the real thing. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling.
No. 2062 ....$1.98

SECRET BOOK SAFE

With Combination Lock
Only You Can Open
ONLY $1.69

Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding.
No. 700 $1.69

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Imitation white plaster arm cast complete with arm sling. Looks like the real thing! Fits teenagers or adults. A 4 $1.98

Scary, Life-Size MONSTER GHOST

ONLY $1.00

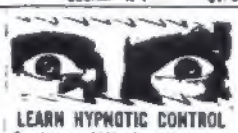
Obeys Your Commands!
OVER 7 FEET TALL

Scare the daylights out of your "victim" as this terrifying life size ghost hovers and darts over him. Can be controlled up to 50 feet away so you can hide while watching your victim. Complete instructions included.
No. MT1D1.....$1.00

SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.
No. 878 Only 50c

LEARN HYPNOTIC CONTROL



Develop your hidden hypnotic powers to control the minds and bodies of men and women. Learn to perform amazing feats and entertain at parties. Easily learned from the new book, "25 Lessons in Hypnotism."
No. 7217 45c

MONEY CHANGER

Just like a professional money changer, Attaches to any belt, Holds pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.
No. 70 $1.25

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This rubber mask is so grotesque that it is sure to shake up the whole neighborhood. Be the "Werewolf" that prowls again!
No. 26W....$1.98

FINGER CHOPPER

Chop a cigarette in two in either hole. Put finger in top hole and cigarette in lower. The cigarette is cut, but your finger is unharmed. Full instructions.
No. 6222 $1

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . and . . . OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10.
8139 1.29

ONLY 3.98 Weighted Wristlets

"Power Packed" Arm Builders
To Give you mighty striking power

"Power Packed" wristlets build the powerful arms you want without special equipment or exercises. Just wear these rugged lead weighted wristlets during your ordinary activities at work or play
8900.....$3.98 each

THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free bulletin on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."
No. 137 25c

FULL SIZE SKELETON 7 FEET TALL EYES GLOW IN THE DARK

This 7 foot tall "BONEY THE SKELETON" is scary enough at any time —but wait till you see him IN THE DARK in all his horrible, spine chilling grandeur, eyes glowing like fiery coals. If you like to haunt houses or frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang "Boney" in your room or to liven up a party.
No. F290 $1.00

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35 WILBUR ST., LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.
We cannot accept orders totaling less than $1.00.

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

Please add 25c to total order for postage and handling.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

For COD orders please send 50c good will deposit. Pay postman the balance on delivery plus COD and handling charges.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____
New York State residents add appropriate sales tax

HORROR TALES

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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THE VAMPIRES
IT WASN'T A CHAIN REACTION THAT BURNED EARTH BARE, IN THE END! IT WAS FIRE, CLOUDS, RIVERS, OCEANS OF FLAME! STONE AND EARTH MELTED! THE VERY SEAS BOILED! YET, SOMEHOW THERE WERE SURVIVORS!
THESE CREATURES ROAMED THE SHATTERED WORLD! AND IT WAS WITH THESE THAT THE INVADERS WERE CONCERNED WITH LATER... WHEN THEIR SPACE-SHIP KNIFED IN TO COMPLETE THEIR GRIM WORK!
COMMANDER! I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING MOVE BELOW! YES! THERE! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING LIVED THROUGH OUR ATTACK?
POSSIBLE, EVEN IF IMPROBABLE! BUT I SEE IT ALSO! A HUMAN! AND IF THERE'S ONE, THERE WILL BE OTHERS!
OUR ORDERS WERE TO BURN THE THE PLANET CLEAN, SO THAT WHEN IT HAS RENEWED ITSELF, OUR COLONISTS MAY SETTLE UPON IT! WE WERE NOT TO LAND UNLESS IT WAS NECESSARY! NOW IT IS NECESSARY!

BUT IT WOULD BE AN EASY MATTER TO BURN THAT CRAWLING LITTLE THING!
AND IF THERE ARE OTHERS!? WE SHALL LAND AND HUNT THEM DOWN!
LOGIC WAS THE ONE, THE ONLY LAW OF THE CONQUERORS! MEN THOUGH THEY WERE, THEY WERE BEINGS WHO COULD COLDLY SLAUGHTER A WORLD, AND COLDLY HUNT DOWN THE FEW WRETCHES WHO DID NOT DIE!
THE FIRST SCOUT SHIP HAS RETURNED, COMMANDER! TWO PRISONERS! EXTERMINATION?
FIRST THINGS FIRST, CAPTAIN!
DID THESE HUMANS FIGHT BACK? TRY TO ESCAPE?
WHY, NO SIR! THEY SEEMED MEEK, DAZED... AS IF IN SHOCK...
THAT IS TO BE EXPECTED! GIVE THEM FOOD! WE SHALL TAKE THEM WITH US! OUR TECHNICIANS WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THEM!
FROM ALL THE CORNERS OF THE SMOLDERING EARTH THE SCOUT SHIPS RETURNED. FROM ASIA, AFRICA, THE AMERICAS! AND EACH BROUGHT WITH IT, IT'S CARGO...
CATTLE! THEY DO NOT RESIST! THEY DO NOT EVEN SEEM TO HATE US!
CATTLE, YES! AND YET SOMEHOW THEY SURVIVED, CAPTAIN! AFTER WE RETURN HOME IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO DISCOVER HOW!
NO EYES SAW THE COMETS THAT STREAKED SKYWARD SOON AFTER! THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO WATCH!
NOR DID ANYONE CARE! FOR THE HUMANS SAT QUIETLY, THE FOOD BEFORE THEM UNTOUCHED.
ALL IS WELL, GUARD?
THEY DO NOT EAT, SIR! WHAT'S MORE, I THINK IT IS I WHO IS BEING WATCHED! THEY LOOK AT ME AND WHISPER AMONG THEMSELVES!

I THINK YOUR IMAGINATION IS PLAYING TRICKS WITH YOUR LOGIC! LOGIC IS OUR CREED! USE IT!
YES SIR!
UNEASINESS GREW INTO TENSION UNTIL LOGIC DEMANDED ACTION!
ENOUGH! A HANDFUL OF STARVED HUMANS PENNED IN A CAGE AND YOU TELL ME MY CREW FEARS THEM! WE BURNED THEIR PLANET! YOU MY OFFICERS SHUDDER WHEN YOU PASS THEM!
I UNDERSTAND THEM NO MORE THAN YOU! AS A SOLDIER I FIND THEM DOCILE PRISONERS! MILD! HARMLESS! YOU TECHNICIANS WILL HAVE YOUR SAY WHEN WE REACH HOME PLANET!
SIR! I MEAN NO DISRESPECT, BUT WOULDN'T IT BE SIMPLER TO OPEN A LOCK AND DROP THEM INTO SPACE?
IT WOULD BE SIMPLE! AND ILLOGICAL! I UNDERTOOK TO BRING THE HUMANS TO OUR WORLD! I SEE NO REASON FOR ALTERING THAT DECISION!
AND STILL THE HUMANS SAT SILENT, WHILE THE FLEET RACED ON. UNTIL AT LAST, IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY THAT AT FIRST THE COMMANDER HARDLY WAS AWARE IT WAS TAKING PLACE!
WHAT IS IT, CREWMAN?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? HOW DARE YOU BRING THOSE CREATURES ON MY BRIDGE!?
NO ANSWER! A UNIFORMED ROBOT STOOD STIFFLY, AS IF IN A TRANCE! AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE COMMANDER KNEW AN EMOTION AGAINST WHICH LOGIC WAS OF NO AVAIL FEAR!
WEAPONS WILL NOT HELP YOU, COMMANDER! NOR AN ALARM! THE OTHERS OF YOUR CREW ARE ALREADY LIKE THIS GUARD! WE GIVE THE ORDERS NOW!
WHY YOU INSOLENT...

...STAND BACK...
IT IS USELESS! YOU CANNOT DRAW YOUR WEAPON, COMMANDER! NOR CAN THE OTHERS!
AND, SO IT WAS! THE COMMANDER COULD READ HIS DOOM IN THOSE LUMINOUS EYES! AS IF HYPNOSIS WERE A GIANT FIST CLOSING UPON HIS BRAIN!
IT'S TRUE! I CAN'T MOVE! AND YOU... YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE!
WE LEARN! WE KNOW MANY THINGS, COMMANDER! WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU!
YOUR FIRES COULD NOT HARM US, BUT THEY BURNED DEEP... DEEP!
THEY BURNED AWAY THE ANCIENT CHARMS WITH WHICH MEN MADE US HELPLESS! WE'LL LIVE WELL IN YOUR WORLD!
YOU FREED US, COMMANDER! WE SHALL WALK AGAIN... CONTENTED IN YOUR WORLD!
ONE QUESTION THE COMMANDER MANAGED BEFORE THE DARKNESS CLOSED IN ON HIM: ONE QUESTION AS AN OLD MAN BENT OVER HIM!
YOU SHALL TAKE US THERE! LEAD US TO THIS FRUITFUL PLACE OF YOUR KIND!
WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?
BUT THE ANSWER MEANT NOTHING TO THE COMMANDER!... FOR HIS WORLD OF LOGIC DOES NOT ADMIT THAT THERE CAN BE SUCH THINGS AS THESE!
WE HAVE HAD MANY NAMES DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, COMMANDER! THE PEOPLE YOU DESTROYED CALLED US VAMPIRES!
THE END

THE
BROOMSTICK
WITCH
Romero.

NICHOLAS DANA IS MY NAME. BUT MY ENEMIES CALL ME MISTER TRICKS. BY ENEMIES I MEAN PHONY MEDIUMS, CON-MEN, AND CRACKPOTS WHO PREY ON THE SUPERSTITIOUS FEARS OF JOHN Q. PUBLIC. MY JOB IS EXPOSING THEM.
WELL, I'M TO UNCOVER A WITCH! THE CHARACTER WHO'S WORKING THAT OLD OLD GIMMICK MUST HAVE MORE NERVE THAN IMAGINATION!
SAM BURTON'S LETTER BROUGHT ME TO HARKER FALLS. APPARENTLY HE HAD FORGOTTEN THIS WAS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, FOR HE WAS THE WRITER OF THE LETTER CONCERNING THE WITCH.
NICHOLAS DANA! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! EXCEPT FOR SOME GREY HAIR YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT IN FIFTEEN YEARS.
HELLO, SAM, I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD! DON'T TELL ME YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS TOWN IS PLAGUED BY A WITCH!
SAM DROVE ME TO A LOCAL HOTEL. AFTER SHAVING AND SHOWERING, I MET SAM IN A SMALL RESTAURANT NEAR THE HOTEL.
WELL, SAM, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. I WANT TO HEAR THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING!
MR. TRICKS, MEET ED LANG, HE'S HER LANDLORD - AND THE FIRST PERSON TO KNOW THIS WOMAN - WHOM THE PEOPLE IN THIS AREA CALL MADAM CYANIDE.

MADAM CYANIDE! QUITE A NAME! WHEN DID YOU MEET HER, ED?
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT GAL'S A WITCH! SHE DOESN'T DENY IT! I MET HER FOUR YEARS AGO! SHE CAME TO INQUIRE ABOUT SOME PROPERTY I OWNED! SAID SHE WAS A STRANGER IN TOWN... WANTED TO RENT A HOUSE!
I ENDED UP BY GIVING HER A TWENTY YEAR LEASE! I WOULD NEVER DO THAT FOR A STRANGER... NOT UNLESS SHE PUT A SPELL ON ME!
HOW ABOUT MY BROTHER LEO! THE GIRLS WOULD NEVER LOOK AT HIM BEFORE MADAME CYANIDE SOLD HIM THAT LOVE POTION! NOW LEO CAN'T DRIVE THE GALS AWAY!
WHEN FANNY SUTTON SNUBBED HER, ALL THE COWS ON THE SUTTON FARM TOOK SICK!
TWENTY MINUTES LATER WE WERE AT SUTTON'S... THE COWS WERE ALMOST DEAD OF STARVATION, YET THEY REFUSED ALL FOOD PUT BEFORE THEM!
ANIMALS DON'T DELIBERATELY STARVE THEMSELVES, NICK! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?
THERE'S NO MAGIC HERE! I'LL BET THE STRAW HOLDS THE ANSWER! AT ANY RATE, I'M GOING TO CALL ON MADAM CYANIDE!
I LEFT SAM AT SUTTON'S AND WENT DIRECTLY TO MADAM CYANIDE'S HOUSE!
COME IN, MR. TRICKS! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
I'M NOT IMPRESSED BY YOUR KNOWING MY NAME, MA'AM! TALK SPREADS FAST IN A SMALL TOWN!
I FOLLOWED HER INTO A WELL-FURNISHED LIVING ROOM!
I'LL COME TO THE POINT, IF YOU DON'T MIND! THIS LITTLE GAME OF YOURS IS CAUSING QUITE A DISTURBANCE HERE!
IT CAN WHEN I'M ANGERED! YOU SEE I'M A WITCH! BEEN ONE SINCE 1629!

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD?
I'M ASKING YOU NOTHING! IN FACT, I DIDN'T INVITE YOU HERE! YOUR ATTITUDE IS ANNOYING AND I WISH YOU'D LEAVE!
THIS IS QUITE A CONVINCING LAYOUT, MADAME. ALL THE NECESSARY PROPS! THIS BROOM.. DO YOU FLY ON IT WHEN YOU MAKE HOUSE CALLS?
THAT'S A GOOD JOKE! BUT I'VE GOT ONE THAT'LL DOUBLE YOU UP! JUST LISTEN...
THAT SORT OF THING IS GETTING YOU IN TROUBLE WITH THE FOLKS IN THIS TOWN! I MUST WARN YOU THAT IT MAY ALSO DISPLEASE THE AUTHORITIES! GOOD DAY, MADAM!
SHE WAS A CANTANKEROUS OLD BIDDY WHO WAS CAPITALIZING ON HER FACE! I CALLED SAM BURTON TO MY HOTEL ROOM TO TELL HIM SO.. WHEN SUDDENLY!
THAT'S ALL SHE IS, SAM... JUST AN OLD CRONE... HEY! MY BACK... IT'S STARTING TO ITCH...
THE CURSE... IT'S WORKING! I'LL GET DOC BARNES...
FROM THE INFERNO'S DEPTHS, FROM THE BURNING PITCH! COME FORTH TO AID THIS WITCH! MAKE HIS FOUL SKIN ITCH!
SEE THAT STAIN? THAT'S WHERE SHE PLACED HER HAND WHEN SHE PRONOUNCED THE CURSE! IT WOULDN'T BE HARD TO PALM A SMALL VIAL OF ACID AND POUR IT ON THE CLOTH!
APPARENTLY A PART OF HER TRADE, MR TRICKS! NO DOUBT YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT I'D ADVISE THAT YOU REST!
THE PAIN IN MY BACK WAS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE THE MOST HARDENED CYNIC... BEFORE THE MOUNTING PAIN COULD DROWN MY FALTERING LOGIC. THE DOCTOR ARRIVED!
IT AIN'T SERIOUS... AND CERTAINLY NO CURSE.. THIS SKIN IRRITATION MIGHT BE AN ACID BURN!
HOW DID THE ACID GET ON HIS SHOULDER?

BY MORNING THE PAIN WAS GONE! THE EVIDENCE I NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN MY CASE SOON ARRIVED! LATER I MET SAM BURTON AND HIS NEIGHBORS!
MR. TRICKS, THE NEWS OF HER PHONY CURSE HAS SPREAD ALL OVER TOWN! THEY'RE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE YOU!
HERE'S ANOTHER LOGICAL ANSWER TO HER "SO CALLED" MAGIC! IT CAME IN THE MAIL AN HOUR AGO!
SAM SENT A SPECIMEN OF THE STRAW IN SUTTON'S BARN TO A CHEMIST... HERE'S HIS REPORT... IT CONTAINED A CHEMICAL WHICH MADE THE ANIMALS VIOLENTLY ILL! THAT'S WHY THEY WOULDN'T EAT!
THAT WAS MY JOB... EXPOSING THE TRICKS OF CHARLATANS! BUT I DIDN'T FORSEE THE RISING ANGER OF THE VILLAGERS! IT BOILED OVER INTO VIOLENCE... AND I HAD NO ANSWERS TO COPE WITH THAT!
I REACHED THE OLD WOMAN'S HOUSE A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE THE OTHERS! THERE, WITH THE BROOMSTICK CLUTCHED IN HER HAND, STOOD MADAME CYANIDE!
TAR AND FEATHERS ARE TOO GOOD FOR HER! HANG THE OLD WITCH!
SOMEBODY GET A ROPE!
WHERE IS THAT OLD HAG?
THERE'S AN ANGY MOB HEADED THIS WAY! THEY'LL GET HERE BEFORE THE SHERIFF! IF I WERE YOU, I'D LEAVE WHILE I WAS STILL IN ONE PIECE!
YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS! YOU AND YOUR SMART ALECKY GUMSHOEING! YOU'RE A FOOL! AN IDIOT!
I ADMIRED THE OLD GIRL'S SPUNK! BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO HELP HER! A MOMENT LATER I WAS PUSHED ASIDE AS THE MOB POURED INTO THE ROOM AND SPIED IT'S PREY!
DRAG HER OUT OF THIS DEVIL'S LAIR! WE'LL TEACH HER!
YOU MUSTN'T DO HER ANY HARM! SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL!
THESE MISERABLE CREATURES CAN'T HEAR YOU, MR. TRICKS! BUT DON'T WORRY, I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
SHE LOWERED THE BROOMSTICK.. IT TOUCHED THE FLOOR! THE ROOM WAS INSTANTLY ENVELOPED IN A CLOUD OF BILLOWY WHITE SMOKE!

SHOUTS OF FEAR AND ANGER COULD BE HEARD AS FRIGHTENED MEN GROPED BLINDLY ABOUT LOOKING FOR HER! BUT WHEN THE ROOM CLEARED, MADAME CYANIDE WAS GONE!
S-SHE'S VANISHED!
SHE DIDN'T GET BY ME! I WAS IN THE DOORWAY!
MAYBE SHE IS A WITCH!
WHAT IS IT?
A CUTE GIMMICK! SEE THOSE TWO BARE WIRES IN THE CUP? SHE JUST PUSHED THEM TOGETHER WITH HER BROOM! CREATING A SHORT CIRCUIT! THE SPARK IGNITED PHOTOGRAPHERS FLASH POWDER! THAT'S WHERE THE FLASH AND SMOKE CAME FROM!
THERE MUST BE A CONCEALED PASSAGE SOMEWHERE IN THIS ROOM! GET BUSY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT PASSAGE!
I COULDN'T TELL THEM WHAT I REALLY SAW FROM THE WINDOW! PERHAPS A LARGE BIRD AGAINST THE MOON... OR A WOMAN ASTRIDE A BROOMSTICK!
THE STAIRS LED TO AN EMPTY ATTIC AND AN OPEN WINDOW!
HE'S BEEN GONE A LONG TIME! MAYBE HE RAN INTO TROUBLE.. HERE HE COMES NOW!
THERE'S AN OPEN WINDOW HERE AND A DRAIN PIPE LEADING TO THE GROUND! I THINK HARKER FALLS HAS SEEN THE LAST OF MADAME CYANIDE!
WERE THERE ONCE PEOPLE WHO PLAYED WITH PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY WHICH MADE THEM IMMORTAL? PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE FRIENDLY TO MADAME CYANIDE... I MIGHT HAVE LEARNED...
IN UTTER EXASPERATION I STRUCK OUT ANGRILY AT A SHELF! A HIDDEN SPRING WAS RELEASED AND A SECTION OF THE WALL SLID ASIDE!
THERE'S THE STAIRWAY THAT MUST LEAD TO HER HIDING PLACE! STAY HERE WHILE I GET HER!
THE END

THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR JOHN CROUCH WAS A NIGHT IN NOVEMBER, 1951, WHEN THE WIND HOWLED AND SHRIEKED LIKE A SOUL IN TORMENT. THAT NIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE STEPPED BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF DECENCY
THE SPIRIT OF EVIL
CARL, IT-IT'S HIM. IT'S DAD! HE MEANT IT WHEN HE SAID HE WAS COMING HERE! YOU WERE RIGHT! HE'S INSANE!
ANY MAN WHO THINKS HE CAN CONJURE UP A DEMON IS INSANE COME ON!
DAD! DAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU! SO YOU FOLLOWED ME. YOU AND THE BOTHERSOME YOUNG FOOL WHO THINKS I'M MAD GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!
WE FOLLOWED YOU BECAUSE SARAH WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. AND IT ISN'T RIGHT TO VIOLATE A GRAVE, MISTER CROUCH! COME HOME WITH US FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH GOOD? ONLY EVIL HAS POWER SOME DAY I'LL PROVE THAT SOME DAY I'LL HAVE SATAN HIMSELF TO FETCH AND CARRY FOR ME!

THE ANCIENTS TRIED TO DO WHAT I'M DOING AND FAILED! BUT I WON'T FAIL! I ONLY NEED TIME! TIME.. AND THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS!
I KNOW! I'VE SEEN YOUR BOOKS! AND I'VE SEEN THE HORRIBLE CONCOCTIONS YOU MIX! BLOOD OF BLACK ROOSTERS, THE HEART OF A FROG!
YOU FAILED SO MANY TIMES! GIVE IT UP!
NO! I FAILED BECAUSE SOMETHING WAS MISSING! THE KNUCKLES FROM THE LEFT HAND OF A MURDERER! LIKE THE MAN BURIED IN THIS GRAVE!
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE! YOU . YOU GHOUL! IF NOT FOR SARAH, I'D GO TO THE POLICE! I'M TAKING HER AWAY FROM HERE!
TAKE HER AND LEAVE ME ALONE!
JOHN CROUCH WAS MAD BEYOND ANY SHADOW OF A DOUBT, AND NO ONE CAN REASON WITH A MADMAN! CARL DANIELS TOOK SARAH HOME!
SARAH, COME AWAY WITH ME! YOU DON'T BELONG IN THIS... THIS MUSEUM! YOU KNOW YOUR FATHER IS BEYOND HELP!
I'LL NEVER ADMIT THAT! DAD'S SUFFERING FROM A DELUSION! HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM!
DAD, IN THE PARCEL.. THAT CAN'T BE WHAT I THINK IT IS! IT CAN'T BE!
IT'S.. WHAT YOU THINK, SARAH, THE HAND OF A DEAD MAN! NOW WILL YOU COME AWAY WITH ME?
DELUSION IS IT? YOU FOOLS! TONIGHT YOU'LL SEE IF I'M SUFFERING FROM A DELUSION! I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED NOW... EVERYTHING!

NUMB WITH HORROR, SARAH SHOOK HER HEAD! IN THE NEXT ROOM JOHN CROUCH MUMBLED ANCIENT INCANTATIONS OVER A DEVILS BREW!
NOTHING. I FAILED AGAIN! BUT WHY... WHY?
IF THEY HAD GONE TO THE POLICE ALL MIGHT STILL HAVE BEEN WELL, BUT THE DIDN'T! FOR A WEEK JOHN CROUCH BURIED HIMSELF IN HIS MANUSCRIPTS!
EVIL COMES TO EVIL! IT'S SO...SIMPLE! IF I WERE EVIL, IF I COMMITTED A SIN, I MIGHT SUCCEED!
DAD, YOU MUSTN'T TALK LIKE THAT!
SARAH GOT OUT! SHE USED A TELEPHONE AND SOON CARL WAS WITH HER!
YOU'RE NOT REALLY BAD! YOU. YOU COULDN'T BE! I WON'T LET YOU!
LET ME? YOU WEAKLING, WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR STUPID MORALITY? GET OUT!
THERE HE IS! HE'S GOING TO DO SOMETHING TERRIBLE! I KNOW HE IS!
WE'LL FOLLOW HIM! IF HE TRIES ANYTHING, WE'LL STOP HIM!
CROUCH'S PATH WOUND THROUGH LITTERED SLUM STREETS... AT LAST HE HALTED, AS IF WAITING.
HE'S BEEN STANDING THERE FOR AN HOUR, SARAH! ARE YOU SURE YOU UNDERSTOOD HIM?
AN EVIL DEED... TO ATTRACT AN EVIL POWER!

JOHN CROUCH WALKED ON! BEHIND HIM HORROR HUNG HEAVY ON THE NIGHT!
HE, STABBED HER! A GIRL HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW! WE'VE GOT TO TELL THE POLICE!
NO! IF YOU LOVE ME, DON'T TELL!
IF WE DON'T TELL, WE'RE AS GUILTY AS HE IS! I... I CAN'T HAVE THIS ON MY CONSCIENCE!
IF WE TELL, MY FATHER WILL BE PENNED UP LIKE AN ANIMAL! IF YOU TELL, I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
HE STILL THINKS HE CAN SUCCEED, AND UNTIL HE DOES... THERE WILL BE NO PEACE! MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST IF HE DID SUCCEED!
JOHN CROUCH'S SIN BECAME THEIR SIN! THEY WALKED HOME IN AN AGONY OF SILENT GUILT...
IT DIDN'T HELP! I'VE FAILED AGAIN! BUT THERE MUST BE A WAY!
CARL! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IT WAS NOT TOO DIFFICULT! EACH NIGHT, JOHN CROUCH MIXED HIS WITCH'S BREW, MUTTERED HIS MAGIC WORDS! A FEW NIGHTS LATER, EVERYTHING WAS READY!
CARL, I... I'M FRIGHTENED! WHAT IF HE RECOGNIZES YOU? YOU KNOW HOW HE IS! HE.. HE MIGHT DO ANYTHING!
OTHER WISE HE MIGHT KILL AGAIN! YOU'RE RIGHT! WE MUST DO SOMETHING!
I'M SAYING THAT IF YOUR FATHER THOUGHT HE HAD CALLED UP THE DEVIL, HE MIGHT BE SATISFIED! I COULD PRETEND
WE HAVE NO CHOICE! OPEN THE DOOR!

SARAH DID AS SHE WAS TOLD! CARL TOOK HIS POSITION, A DOOR CREAKED OPEN.. AND JOHN CROUCH FROZE!
FOR A MOMENT THE TABLEAU REMAINED MOTIONLESS! THEN CARL DANIELS TURNED AWAY!
SARAH! WHERE IS HE? I SAW HIM! HE CAME INTO THIS ROOM! I SAW HIM WITH MY OWN EYES
HIM? WHY NO ONE CAME IN HERE, DAD!
THEN HE MUST HAVE JUST VANISHED! HE HIS SATANIC MAJESTY WAS REALLY HERE!
HIS MAJESTY? DAD, NO! YOU DIDN'T.. YOU DIDN'T SUCCEED AT LAST! IF YOU DID. THEN YOU CAN GIVE IT ALL UP NOW! YOU'VE DONE WHAT YOU SET OUT TO DO!
CARL! IT.. IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD!
I KNOW, SARAH, I HEARD! NOW HE WILL BE WORSE THAN EVER!
GIVE IT UP? YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN! NEXT TIME HE WON'T SLIP AWAY!

THERE WAS STILL ONE WAY TO RID JOHN CROUCH OF HIS DELUSION! THE FOLLOWING NIGHT..
CARL, YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH.. THAT YOU PRETENDED! YOU MUSTN'T! HE... HE'LL KILL YOU!
BETTER ME THAN SOMEONE ELSE!
IF I TELL HIM THE TRUTH, THAT HE BELIEVED A LIE, IT MAY SHOCK HIM BACK TO NORMALCY!
THE TRUTH, DANIELS, WHAT IS THE TRUTH?
THAT YOU'RE INSANE! IT'S TIME YOU HEARD IT! WHAT KIND OF HORROR ARE YOU MIXING IN THAT POT NOW?
IT WAS WHAT WAS IN THIS. THAT CALLED UP SATAN JUST YESTERDAY! YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT, DID YOU? I COULDN'T MAKE HIM STAY! BUT I'VE CHANGED THE PROPORTIONS OF THE INGREDIENTS! NEXT TIME... HE WILL REMAIN!
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME! YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR THE TRUTH!... BEFORE YOU DRIVE SARAH AS INSANE AS YOURSELF!
CARL DANIELS SMASHED CROUCH'S DREAM INTO A MILLION PIECES!
LIAR! YOU'RE LYING! I DID SUCCEED!
YOU FAILED!
MISTER CROUCH... FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, FOR THE SAKE OF US ALL. LET US TAKE YOU TO A DOCTOR! YOU NEED HELP!
I KNOW THE KIND OF HELP YOU'D GIVE ME! DON'T TOUCH ME!

YOU WANT TO LOCK ME UP! I WON'T LET YOU!
DAD!
DAD, NO... NO!
THEY DID NOT SEE A FOUL MIST RISE FROM AN EVIL SMELLING BREW! THEY DID NOT SEE IT GROW!
THAT SHADOW... IT'S MOVING!
NOW THERE WERE TWO VIOLENT DEATHS TO PLUCK WITH HARPY FINGERS AT THE SOULS OF CARL AND SARAH! THEY CLUNG TOGETHER TREMBLING! THEY DID NOT LOOK BEHIND THEM!
THEY KNEW THEN THAT JOHN CROUCH HAD SUCCEEDED! THEN THEY KNEW NOTHING.
UNLESS, PERHAPS, THEY KNEW THAT CARL DANIELS HAD BEEN RIGHT! SOME DAY, SOMEHOW, WE ALL MUST PAY... FOR OUR SINS!
THE END

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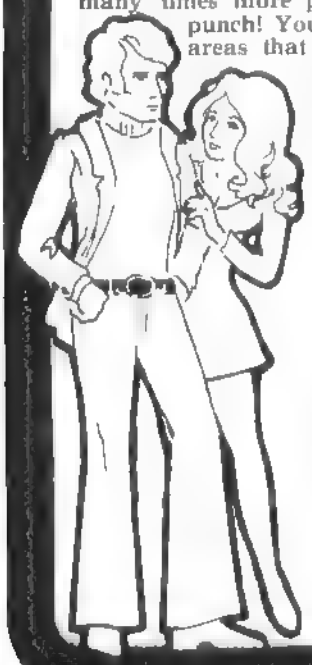

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ONLY ONE MAN KNEW IT'S SECRET... THE MAN WHO WATCHED THOSE WRITHING BRANCHES REACHING UP, CLAWING THE NIGHT SKY LIKE THE HANDS OF A STRANGLER! ONLY HE KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TREE HE CALLED THE...

HORROR TREE

SOME YEARS AGO I BOUGHT A BIT OF LAND NEAR A SMALL SOUTHERN TOWN / THE NAME DOESN'T MATTER... WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE TREE!
ON THE GROUND, FLANKING THE HIGHWAY, STOOD THE TREE
IT LOOKS AS OLD AS TIME! STRANGE HOW THE BARK SUGGESTS AN EVIL FACE! AND THOSE BRANCHES, LIKE CLAWED HANDS!
AS A HARSH WIND SWEPT THOSE TALONED BRANCHES, THE TREE SEEMED TO STIR RESTLESSLY, AS IF... AS IF IT WERE SUDDENLY AWARE OF MY PRESENCE...
THERE IS A MALIGNANCE ABOUT THE TREE! THE EVIL IS SO PHYSICAL I CAN ALMOST FEEL IT!
I QUESTIONED MY NEIGHBORS ABOUT THE TREE AND LEARNED IT HAD AN EVIL HISTORY! DURING THE REVOLUTION A TRAITOR WAS STOOD AGAINST IT AND SHOT TO DEATH!
ONCE A BUSINESS MAN HAD TRIED TO HIDE FROM HIGHWAYMEN, BUT THE BRANCHES HELD HIM CAPTIVE UNTIL THE HIGHWAYMEN FOUND HIM..
CAN'T-GET-LOOSE! UNH!
THERE HE IS! SHOOT HIM DOWN!
BANG!
AND THOSE VERY BRANCHES HAD BEEN USED FOR THE COWARDLY LYNCHING OF MANY AN UNFORTUNATE BEING! I COULD TELL YOU MORE OF ITS EVIL HISTORY. BUT WHY GO ON...

THE TERRIBLE TREE WAS ALWAYS IN MY WAKING THOUGHTS... ITS EVIL IMAGE EVEN INVADED MY DREAMS... HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE DREAMS.
NO!! NO!!
WHAT A TERRIBLE DREAM! GOT TO CLEAR MY OPPRESSIVE THOUGHTS! GET FRESH AIR!
I LOOKED OUT AND WHAT I SAW WAS STAGGERING, UNBELIEVABLE! THE TREE'S BRANCHES WERE REACHING OUT, PULLING A SPEEDING CAR TOWARD IT AS THOUGH THE CAR WAS A PUPPET ON INVISIBLE STRINGS!
AN ACCIDENT PEOPLE CALLED IT, BUT I KNEW BETTER!
OH!
CRASH!
CAR SKIDDED OFF THE ROAD! GUESS THE DRIVER LOST CONTROL!
YES, THE DRIVER LOST CONTROL BECAUSE HE WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THAT EVIL TREE! THE TREE MURDERED HIM!

TWO DAYS LATER THE TREE MURDERED A CHILD.. A HAPPY CHILD WHO'D CLIMBED IT'S BRANCHES ON A LARK!
HA-HA-HA!
A BRANCH BROKE UNDER THE CHILD! IT BROKE DELIBERATELY... I'M POSITIVE OF THAT!
I KNOW YOU'RE A KILLER! NOW I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU SO YOU CAN'T KILL AGAIN!
SUDDENLY THERE WAS A SNAPPING SOUND! ONLY MY AWARENESS OF THE TREES CUNNING SAVED ME FROM CRUSHING DEATH AS A HEAVY BRANCH CRASHED DOWN!
SNAP
I WAS LIKE A MAN POSSESSED! UNDER A SULLEN SKY, MY AX BIT DEEPLY INTO THE GNARLED BARK... AND IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE TREE SHUDDERED AND RECOILED LIKE A WOUNDED BEAST!
THE TREE TRIED TO KILL ME! IT KNOWS I AM IT'S ENEMY! IT KNOWS I KNOW IT'S SECRET! IT KNOWS!

I KNEW THEN THAT THE TREE WOULD NOT LET ME LIVE! SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY THE TREE WOULD GET ME UNLESS I FLED!
IF I STAY ON THIS LAND, SOMEDAY THE TREE WILL BRING ME UNDER ITS EVIL CONTROL AS IT DID THE CAR! I MUST GO FAR AWAY!
I SOLD MY PROPERTY AND MOVED UPSTATE! THERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY DAYS I HAD WELCOME RELIEF FROM ANXIETY...
PEACE AND CONTENTMENT! NO NIGHTMARES ANY LONGER AFTER A TIME I'LL FORGET ABOUT THE TREE! IT CAN'T HURT ME HERE!
WINTER CAME AND PASSED! THEN SUDDENLY IT WAS SPRING BRINGING WITH IT THAW AND HEAVY RAINS! THE SWOLLEN RIVER OVERFLOWED IT'S BANKS
THE FLOOD WATERS ARE RISING! I'LL HAVE TO ROW TO HIGHER LAND!
MILES OF FLOODED LAND SWEPT PAST ME! I ROWED FOR HOURS! MY ARMS GREW NUMB WITH THE STRAIN OF IT... AND SUDDENLY IT HAPPENED.
THE OARS! I'VE LOST THE OARS! JUST COULDN'T HOLD THEM ANY MORE!
THE SWIFT CURRENT TOOK MY BOAT AND SWEPT ON! THEN AS DARKNESS FELL SOMETHING SEEMED TO REACH UP OUT OF THE SWOLLEN WATERS
AACH!
CRASH
EVEN AS I WAS FLUNG INTO A WEB OF BRANCHES I RECOGNIZED IT WITH HORROR!
IT'S THE TREE! THE FLOOD WATERS HAVE CARRIED ME BACK TO THE MONSTER FROM WHICH I'VE FLED!

GOT TO GET AWAY! GOT TO GET LOOSE FROM IT! I MUST--OR I'M DOOMED!
BUT THE TREE KNEW! AND I COULD ALMOST SENSE ITS SHUDDER OF TRIUMPH AS IT'S POWERFUL BRANCHES CLOSED ABOUT ME!
IT'S HOLDING ME! I CAN'T GET FREE! I'M TRAPPED!
THE TREES GREEDY BRANCHES HELD ME AS THE FLOOD WATERS GOT HIGHER AND HIGHER... UNTIL I SCREAMED LIKE A LOST SOUL AS THE WATERS CLOSED OVER MY HEAD!
THE TREE HAS WON! AGHH!
YOU POOR MAN! WHAT A DREADFUL EXPERIENCE! BUT THEN WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID YOU FINALLY GET FREE OF THE TREE?
I DIDN'T!
I AM THE TREE!
EEEEEE!
Fernand
FIN

EXPERIMENT IN TERROR

DON'T LET THEM COME NEAR ME!

HAVE NO FEAR....THEY'VE ONLY COME TO DELIVER JUSTICE!

OLIVER PLATT HAD A PURPOSE IN LIFE.... HIS FATHER DIED ON THE GALLOWS. HIS BROTHER HAD BEEN A LORD OF GANGSTERISM, AND OLIVER SWORE HE'D FIND THE MEANING OF EVIL....

SEE NO EVIL....HEAR NO EVIL....SPEAK NO EVIL! MY LITTLE FRIENDS, IF ONLY YOU WERE ALIVE! IF ONLY YOU COULD TELL ME THE MEANING OF EVIL!

...I'D CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS TO DETERMINE THE PART OF THE HUMAN BRAIN IN WHICH EVIL RESIDES....AND YOU COULD BRING ME THE SUBJECTS FOR THESE EXPERIMENTS! BUT WHY TALK OF SUCH NONSENSE....

BUT SUDDENLY THERE WAS A BOLT OF LIGHTNING....AND THEN...
WH...WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I COME TO SERVE YOU, MY FRIEND!

I AM ALWAYS READY TO AID IN THE PURSUIT OF EVIL....AND YOU WISH THOSE FIGURES TO COME TO LIFE FOR YOUR EVIL PURPOSE!
FOR MY EVIL PURPOSE? YES. ...YES!

PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE CALLED EVIL...THOUGH IT WAS EVIL WITH A MEANING!
THEN YOUR WISH SHALL BE GRANTED....LET THE BREATH OF LIFE GIVE YOU EXISTENCE!

TH--THEY'RE CHANGING INTO APES--INTO FEROCIOUS BEASTS!!
DO NOT BE AFRAID--- THEY SHALL BE YOUR SLAVES!

SEE HOW EAGER THEY ARE TO OBEY YOU....TO BRING YOU WHATEVER YOU WISH! BUT NOW I MUST BID YOU....

..FAREWELL!

THEY LEFT OLIVER PLATT'S HOME....THEY HEARD AND OBEYED HIS WORDS. AND THEY STARTED ON THEIR MISSION!

THERE WAS A GIRL WHO WAITED ON A STREET CORNER....

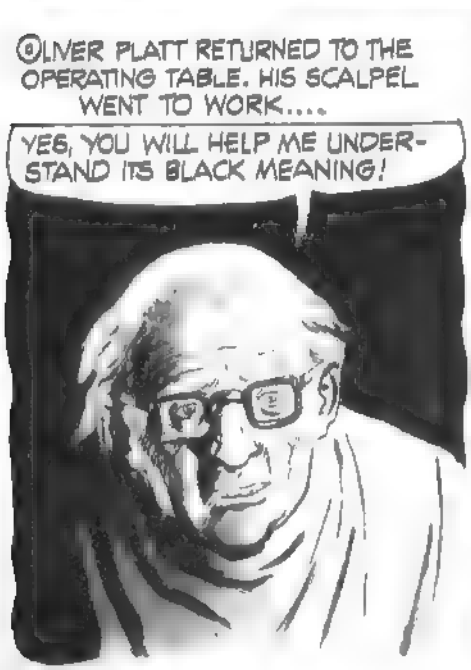
AND THERE WAS A YOUNG COUPLE IN THEIR HOME...

..AND YES, THERE WERE OTHERS, TOO!
PUT ME DOWN!! DON'T... YAAGH-H-H-H!!
GRAWWRR-R-R!!

OLIVER PLATT DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG....
I SEE YOU HAVE DONE A GOOD EVENING'S WORK! SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO BEGIN!!

IT WAS JUST A FEW NIGHTS LATER THAT A CELLAR BUZZED WITH AN EXPERIMENT PERILOUS!
HE SHALL BE THE FIRST TO SERVE ME! AND HE SEEMS A FINE....A CHOICE SPECIMEN!

GRROAR-R-RR!! RAWRRR-R-R-R!
DON'T PROTEST, MY FRIENDS! SEE NO EVIL--HEAR NO EVIL---SPEAK NO EVIL-- HA! YOU WILL HELP ME UNDERSTAND EVIL!


OLIVER PLATT RETURNED TO THE OPERATING TABLE. HIS SCALPEL WENT TO WORK....
YES, YOU WILL HELP ME UNDERSTAND ITS BLACK MEANING!

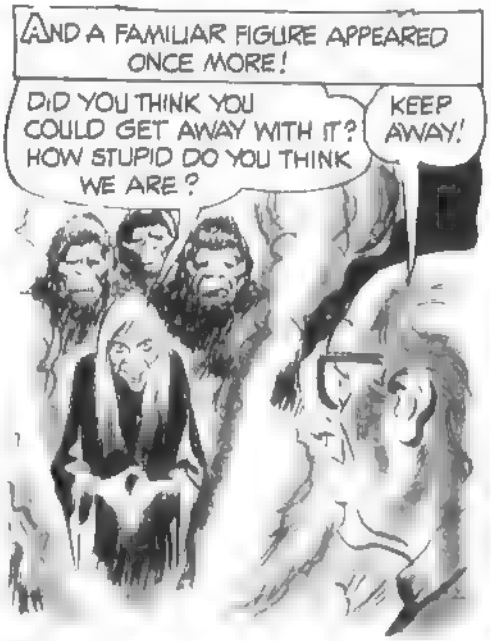
THE SCALPEL CUT DEEP INTO THE FLESH, SEEKING THE LIFEBLOOD OF EVIL....
YOU WILL...WH-WHY, WH-WHY....

UNTIL....
I...I'VE FOUND IT!

YOU FOOLS! YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE FOUND! YES, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE--TO HEAR--AND NOW I AM READY TO SPEAK OF EVIL!
GRAWRR-R-R!

GROWL AS LONG AS YOU WANT! MAKE YOUR FOOLISH NOISES....BUT I AM READY TO SPEAK, TO TEACH THE TRUTH! I'VE OUTWITTED YOU AND YOUR FOOLISH MISTRESS!
AGRRRR!

BUT, SUDDENLY, A CRASH OF LIGHTNING ROARED...
WHAT'S THAT?


AND A FAMILIAR FIGURE APPEARED ONCE MORE!
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT? HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK WE ARE?
KEEP AWAY!

I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU....BUT NOW... ...NOW....

GRAWWW!
LET HIM KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO....

SEE NO EVIL....HEAR NO EVIL.....SPEAK NO EVIL!
THE END

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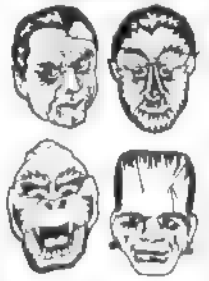

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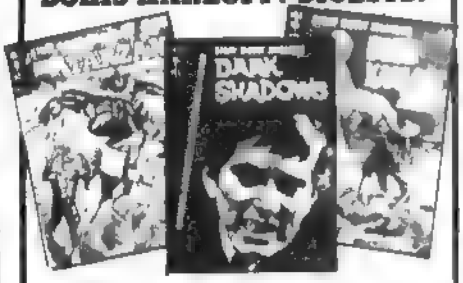

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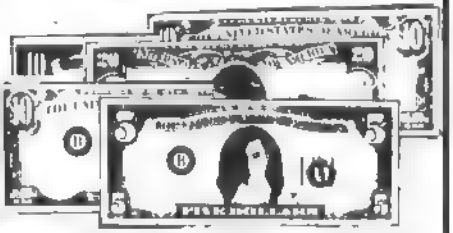

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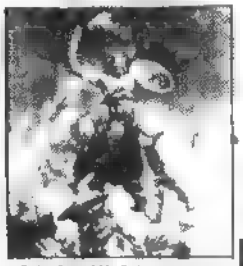

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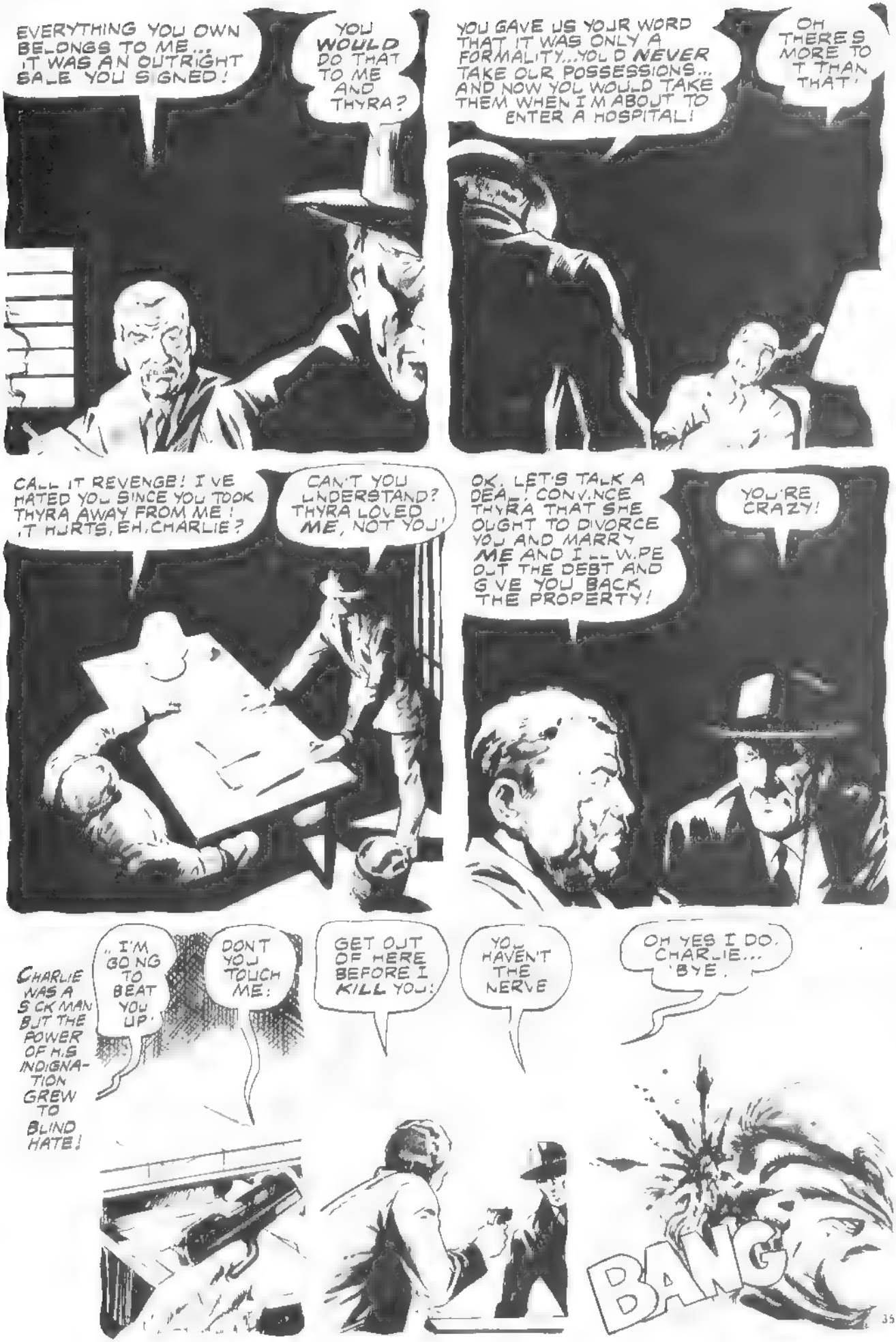
Dearest Thyra:
By the time you recieved this I will be quite dead... but hate will keep me going until I tell you the whole story... you must... understand.

ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 16TH CHARLIE KENNEDY WENT TO THE OFFICE OF HIS FRIEND, NATHAN BOYD! HE WENT TO RENEW A LOAN... NEVER DREAMING THAT THE MEETING WOULD END UP WITH...

the CORPSE THAT LIVES

The MEETING STARTED IN A VERY FRIENDLY MANNER, WITH NO INDICATION WHATEVER OF WHAT WAS TO FOLLOW!


EVERYTHING YOU OWN BELONGS TO ME... IT WAS AN OUTRIGHT SALE YOU SIGNED!
YOU WOULD DO THAT TO ME AND THYRA?
YOU GAVE US YOUR WORD THAT IT WAS ONLY A FORMALITY...YOU'D NEVER TAKE OUR POSSESSIONS... AND NOW YOU WOULD TAKE THEM WHEN I'M ABOUT TO ENTER A HOSPITAL!
OH THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT!
CALL IT REVENGE! I'VE HATED YOU SINCE YOU TOOK THYRA AWAY FROM ME! IT HURTS, EH, CHARLIE?
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THYRA LOVED ME, NOT YOU!
OK, LET'S TALK A DEAL! CONVINCE THYRA THAT SHE OUGHT TO DIVORCE YOU AND MARRY ME AND I'LL WIPE OUT THE DEBT AND GIVE YOU BACK THE PROPERTY!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
CHARLIE WAS A SICK MAN BUT THE POWER OF HIS INDIGNATION GREW TO BLIND HATE!
I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU UP!
DON'T YOU TOUCH ME!
GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I KILL YOU!
YOU HAVEN'T THE NERVE
OH YES I DO, CHARLIE... 'BYE.
BANG

NERVE ENOUGH TO GET AWAY WITH IT AND HAVE EVERYONE THINK IT WAS SUICIDE! DIE, CHARLIE... DIE!

HUMPH! HE'S DEAD!

AND NOW, CHARLIE, I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!

I WIPED THE GUN CLEAN, NOW I'M PLACING IT IN YOUR HAND...THE POLICE WILL SAY YOU COMMITTED SUICIDE... ESPECIALLY WHEN I INFORM THEM OF YOUR ILLNESS AND THAT I LEFT YOU IN YOUR OFFICE ALONE...NEAT, EH, CHARLIE...?

ALTHOUGH CHARLIE WAS DEAD, THE HATE FOR NATHAN LIVED ON WITHIN HIS SOUL! IT BECAME THE BLOOD IN HIS EMPTY ARTERIES, AND...

ARRGHH!
IF I CAN ONLY KEEP HATING ENOUGH UNTIL I FINISH WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
I MUST TELL THYRA WHAT HAS HAPPENED... MUST WRITE HER EVERYTHING!
FOR A HALF HOUR CHARLIE WROTE! TIME COULD BE RUNNING OUT...
...T-TIME IS RUNNING OUT! ...I-I MUST H-HURRY!

CHARLIE STAGGERED DOWN THE STAIRS WITH HIS FATEFUL LETTER...

...AND DROPPED IT INTO THE MAIL BOX! HE WAS DEAD, BUT HATE DROVE HIM ON...
...M-MADE IT! NOW I MUST GET BACK!

NATHAN'S SECRETARY ARRIVED AT 9 A.M., AND...
HELP!

IN A SHORT TIME THE POLICE AND MEDICAL EXAMINER ARRIVED...
THIS IS VERY MYSTERIOUS, CHARLIE HAS BEEN DEAD FIVE HOURS LONGER THAN NATHAN YET CHARLIE IS HOLDING THE GUN!

NONSENSE! HOW COULD A CORPSE KILL NATHAN?
THAT'S JUST WHAT HE DID, DOC! COME HERE!

MAYBE CHARLIE COMMITTED SUICIDE... ANYWAY, ENOUGH TIME LAPSED FOR RIGOR MORTIS TO SET IN! WHEN NATHAN RETURNED FROM THE BROKERS' MEETING, CHARLIES FINGER STIFFENED ON THE TRIGGER AND NATHAN WAS KILLED!
SOUNDS LOGICAL TO ME!
YEAH! AND HOW DO I TELL THE WIDOW HER HUSBAND, A CORPSE KILLED THEIR BEST FRIEND?

THE END

CLAWS OF HORROR

IT CAME TOWARD HIM...BLACKER THAN MIDNIGHT... MORE TERRIBLE THAN A NIGHTMARE!! HOW COULD A MAN FIGHT THAT WHICH WOULD NOT DIE?

CAL HODGINS WAS AN EASY-GOING-SOUL--- TOO MUCH SO FOR HIS AMBITIOUS WIFE. HE RODE ALL OVER NEW ENGLAND WITH HIS HARDWARE STORE ON WHEELS. THO HE DIDN'T MAKE MUCH MONEY HE LIKED WONDERING ABOUT WHAT THE NEXT DAY WOULD BRING...

FATE MUST HAVE BEEN LAUGHING THAT DAY AS JANET TOOK ONE OF THE FORKS... SOMETIMES A STRANGE ROAD LEADS TO A STRANGE END...

HEY WHAT DO YOU MEAN, POP?
MISTER IF I HAD MY WAY WHY I'D BLOCK THIS ROAD OFF SO NO HUMAN BEING COULD GO DOWN IT! THIS ROAD LEADS TO THE OLD RANDALL HOUSE -- AND DEATH!

SON, THIS IS THE THIRD MAN I'VE BURIED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS -- AND EVERY ONE OF 'EM STAYED AT THE RANDALL PLACE.
CAL! CAL HODGINS! OH, THAT MAN! HE'S WORSE THAN AN OLD WOMAN -- HAS TO HEAR ALL THE LOCAL GOSSIP!

ALL RIGHT BOYS... HURRY IT UP! FEELS LIKE A STORM'S COMING! SO YOU WANT THE WHOLE STORY, EH? OKAY... I'LL TELL IT TO YOU!
FINE! GO AHEAD, SHERIFF!

"ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS FIRST ELECTED SHERIFF, OLD MAN RANDALL AND HIS NEPHEW LIVED IN THE HOUSE! RANDALL WAS THE RICHEST MAN IN THE STATE AND THE STINGIEST..."

YOU'RE DYING, UNCLE! I'VE POISONED YOUR WINE! NOW YOUR FORTUNE WILL BE MINE -- ALL MINE!
---ARRGH! -- YOU'LL NEVER... (GASP)... GET IT, JOHN... (GASP)... NOT A RED PENNY... I'VE HIDDEN IT -- AGHHHHHHH...

"THE OLD MAN WAS MY FRIEND, AND WHEN I DIDN'T SEE HIM FOR A FEW DAYS, I RODE OUT TO THE MANSION. WHEN I GOT THERE I FOUND HIM..."
DEAD!! POOR OLD RANDALL -- HE ALWAYS TOLD ME HE NEVER TRUSTED THAT NEPHEW OF HIS...
JOHN DID IT

"WE NEVER DID FIND THE OLD MAN'S NEPHEW. ANYHOW WE BOARDED UP THE HOUSE! FOLKS AROUND HERE KEPT AWAY FROM IT... BUT, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE..."
GUESS I CAN STAY HERE UNTILL MORNING! BOY, AM I TIRED!

HE WAS THE FIRST ONE! I WENT OUT TO INSPECT THE MANS ON AND FOUND HIM. DEAD! THEN I FOUND TWO MORE OF 'EM. THE THIRD ONE WE'VE JUST BURIED. THE FUNNY THING THEY ALL DIED IN THE SAME BLOOD-CHILLIN' WAY."
POOR DEVIL... LOOKS LIKE HE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS
DON'T THINK SO BILL... LOOK AT THE WAY HIS FACE IS MANGLED... HIS BODY RIPPED AND CRUSHED! SEEMS TO ME HE WAS THROWN DOWN THEM.
AND YOU NEVER FOUND OUT WHAT KILLED THEM?
NO THIS LAST ONE HAD NO FACE LEFT! AND NO DENT FICATION EVERYONE WHO HAS STAYED IN THAT HOUSE ONE NIGHT HAS MET A HORRIBLE DEATH!
UNKNOWN
WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME
THANKS POP FOR TELLING ME THAT STORY. I WOULDN'T MIND TAKING A LOOK AT THE OLD PLACE.
TAKE MY ADVICE SON AND JUST TURN YOUR WAGON AROUND. FOR I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T DO YOUR FAVORITE ANY GOOD GETTING CAUGHT OUTSIDE
CAL THE OLD MAN SAID TO TURN BACK-- AND THOSE STORM CLOUDS ARE PILING UP.
I GOT TO SEE THIS OLD PLACE JANET... IT'S ONLY A FEW MILES DOWN THE ROAD I'D-UP-THAR
BUT CAL WAS AS CURIOUS AS HE WAS CAREFREE HE WAS DRAWN TOWARD THE OLD RANDALL PLACE AS A HOOKED FISH IS DRAWN TO THE FISHERMAN
IT'S A HORRIBLE OLD PLACE CAL IT LOOKS AS IF THE HOUSE ITSELF HAS SOME TERRIBLE ROTTING DISEASE!
FOUR MEN HAVE DIED IN THAT HOUSE STRANGE-
I-I-I-CAN'T (PUFF, PUFF.) BUDGE THE WAGON.
...AND THERE'S NOBODY AROUND FOR MILES! OH, CAL... YOUR CURIOUSITY WILL BE THE DEATH OF US YET.

THE STORM SOUNDED IN ALL ITS FURY, AND AS THE WET NIGHT CLOSED IN, THE LONELY EYE OF A NEARBY LIGHTHOUSE WINKED ON AND OFF...
WELL WE'RE STUCK SURE! I'M GOING TO TAKE A GLANCE AROUND THE OLD HOUSE! MAYBE WE COULD MANAGE TO STAY FOR A NIGHT. NOW DON'T WORRY JANET I'LL TAKE THE GUN! THERE ISN'T ANYTHING LIVING THAT WON'T DIE WHEN YOU SHOOT IT!
C'MON, CAL WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? IT'S JUST AN OLD DESERTED HOUSE! --AND YET--OH GOOD-- THERE'S A LANTERN!

THOUGH CAL DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY WHY, FEAR WELLED WITHIN HIM AS SOME PRIMITIVE SENSE WARNED HIM THAT HE WAS NOT ALONE...
HEY? WHAT WAS THAT? SOUNDS LIKE BATS...
GOOD HEAVENS. WHAT IS IT?

THE MONSTER SWOOPED TOWARD HIM... EACH CLAW AS DANGEROUS AS A HANDFUL OF KNIVES AND THEN IT HAPPENED... HE FELT AS IF HOT POKERS HAD BEEN RAMMED INTO HIS FACE...
A-AHGH! AH-HHH!
YOU BLACK DEVIL! WHATEVER YOU ARE... YOU'LL FEEL THE POINT OF MY KNIFE BEFORE I'M A DEAD MAN

CAL KNEW HE WAS LOOKING DEATH IN THE FACE AS THE WEIRD SHAPE PREPARED TO ATTACK AGAIN. WEAK FROM LOSS OF BLOOD, CAL BECAME DIZZY, BUT IN HIS SWEATY HAND HE HELD HIS ONLY WEAPON AND HOPE...
AIEEEE!
AS THE KNIFE PLUNGED INTO THE EVIL THING CAL GRABBED THE HORROR BY ITS HEAD, AND...
WHATEVER YOU ARE YOU CAN'T TAKE COLD STEEL! HEY A MASK...
H-HELP ME---I... I'M DYING!
LOOK!! WHO'S HE?
THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK OUT HERE WHEN I SAW YOU FOLKS DIDN'T COME BACK TO TOWN... WELL I'LL BE... THAT'S JOHN RANDALL!
CAL--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? THE SHOTS!
BUT HE FLEW! HOW COULD HE?
LOOK UP THERE! THAT'S HOW! SON YOU'VE GOT A REWARD COMING FOR THIS.
YES, I'VE BEEN HIDING HERE ALL THESE YEARS--LOOKING FOR THE MONEY MY UNCLE HID... KEEPING OTHERS AWAY... ONE OF THE SHOTS CUT THE ROPE--THE OTHERS WENT THROUGH THE WINGS, DIDN'T HARM ME... HA-HA-HA-!
CAL, WILL YOU STOP COUNTING THE REWARD MONEY AND TELL ME WHICH WAY TO GO?
...THREE HUNDRED... FOUR HUN-- HUH? OH, TAKE ANY ROAD JANET! I'VE NEVER BEEN THROUGH THIS PART BEFORE

HEY GANG! HAVE FUN AND MAKE MONEY WITH OUR FREE LITERATURE!

Following is a listing of literature available to anyone seeking instructional and/or informative materials from participating companies. Simply circle your choices on the coupon below (maximum 10), together with $.25 to cover handling, to our post office box.

MONEY-MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

7. **Vinyl Industrial Products** will teach how to **repair, refinish, recolor furniture, car tops, seats.** Earnings of $1,000 a month within reach.

9. **Joy Products** offers information in its 320-page book, **"Fleamarket Shopper."** Designed for antiques and the new collectibles, the book contains buying and selling prices, hints on what to look for, historical notes and hundreds of illustrations.

12. **American Unifax** suggests that you consider **selling their line of office products,** including Copyfax, Polyfiber Ribbon, Correction Paper, Electronic Mail-Openers, and others. Your dealership will make you the only source for these products in your territory.

15. **Finderhood, Inc.** explains how you can **earn finder's fees** by turning your contacts into cash. The people you know may be worth money to you. You keep 100% of everything you collect.

16. **Utility Color Labs, Inc.** offers detailed information on **"How to Start Your Own Vinyl Repair and Recolor Business for Large Profits"** on a full-time or part-time basis.

17. **Federated Tax Service** will explain how you can make up to $700 a month, filling out income tax forms. **Home-study course** prepares you to work for yourself or a tax preparation company.

18. **Benson Barrett** will teach you how to **make money writing short paragraphs.** He shows how and what to write and sell, and how small checks can add up fast.

19. **Creative Craft House** offers a 16-page **money-making idea booklet** on handicrafts, including items made from shells, jewelry, flowers, rocks, glass and wood.

20. **The Hanover Shoe Co.** tells how you can make up to $200 a month in **your own spare-time business.** Many fringe benefits, plus a chance to earn free shoes for yourself. **No investment needed.**

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22. **Salesman's Opportunity** magazine will send **free 5-month subscription.** Learn how to make money selling new products, full or spare time.

NOTE: The descriptions in this listing are of literature offered and supplied by various companies. Countrywide Publications makes no guarantee of any claims or offers made by companies participating in this listing.

MONEY-SAVING INFORMATION

25. **Car/Puter** offers information on how you can save up to $1,000 buying your new car and buy most cars for $125 over dealers' cost. The service includes a personalized computer print-out showing a side-by-side listing of actual dealer costs and manufacturers' suggested sticker prices, including each optional item you select for the car.

HOME STUDY COURSES

6. **Fabricon Co.** offers a **home-study course in invisible reweaving and reknitting,** a skill in demand from clothing stores and cleaners, at which you can earn $100 a week.

BUILD-IT PLANS AND PROJECTS

2. **Suburban Design** offers information on its do-it-yourself **building plans for yard storage sheds.** More than just shelters for tools and equipment, these are miniature barns, carriage sheds and chalets.

3. **The Bilco Co.** offers a 16-page booklet, **"How to Add Valuable Living Space to Your Home,"** a detailed explanation for homeowners who wish to break through the foundation wall and install a direct outside basement door.

4. **National Plan Service** offers literature on custom-home plan books, with hundreds of home, recreation and garage designs. Also available is a wide range of home improvement and hobby/craft books.

26. **Hallmark Pool Corp.** offers a 4-color brochure illustrating its fiberglass swimming pools, which are designed in a variety of shapes and sizes and installed in a week or less.

TOOLS AND GADGETS

10. **Deeprock Mfg. Co.** offers information on its **Hydra-Drill,** with which you can find water on your property. The portable rig drills at speeds up to 40 feet per hour for as little as 2 cents per foot.

27. **American Products** leaflet describes the new **Airless Rotary Action Paint Gun,** which makes painting anything fast and easy. Other uses include floor waxing and disinfecting rooms.

CAREERS

5. **Business Surveys Co.** will send a pamphlet, **"How to Choose Your Best Career Opportunity."** The company's I.B.M.-Kudor evaluation test helps applicants to make the proper career move.

13. **Wheeler-Dealer Association** offers **"Jackpot Angles,"** a book that details a number of foxy, **sudden-wealth strategies.** The offer also includes "Honest Conmanship" (how to sell nothing for something—and get away with it) and "M.I.H. —The Promoter's Secret Weapon."

14. **Liberty Company** has the story of a failure who became a **big-shot success overnight.** The instructions in "The Power" will explain how you can go about developing this force for your own benefit.

23. **Mail Order Associates** will explain how to make money and build a career, selling the right items at the right prices through the mail. Full details without obligation.

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS

8. **The Schober Organ Corp.** offers a complete kit of **information, including color brochures, price list** and music catalog. Description and specifications accompany the kit. The company also manufactures amplifiers, speaker systems and a wide range of accessories.

11. **Manna Supply Co.** offers information on its "natural-quality" products. They include skin food, papaya tooth powder, bath oils and Birkenstock Footprint Sandals.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

1. **Artisan Crafts** offers brochure on its **quarterly art/craft magazine** edited for readers interested in this field. Brochure also describes special marketing service, **"The Handcrafts Registry,"** and the new annual directory, "Guide to the Craft World."

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1	4	7	10	13	16	19	22	25
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3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27

LEONA WILLIS WAS GREEDY. SHE WAS SO GREEDY THAT SHE SACRIFICED HER SOUL TO FIND HER EVIL DREAMS--SO AWFULLY GREEDY THAT SHE LIVED ONLY TO HATE AND TO BECOME..

THE DEVIL'S GIRL

WHAT IS IT, YE DEMONS! WHO DARES TO DISTURB MY REPOSE? SPEAK!

MASTER....MASTER! WE HAVE DISCOVERED A TERRIBLE ERROR!

FORGIVE US FOR OUR CARELESSNESS!

SATAN LOOKED DOWN ON HIS TREMBLING DEMONS THE RULER OF THE UNDERWORLD WAS ANGRY...THEY HAD TO EXPLAIN QUICKLY...

OH, MIGHTY MEPHISTO! WE HAVE DISCOVERED A SHORTAGE OF WITCHES IN OUR RANKS ON THE SURFACE WORLD!

FOOLS! DID I NOT SHOW YE HOW TO RECRUIT SUCH CREATURES?

COME ALONG! I SHALL SHOW YOU HOW IT IS TO BE DONE...BRING ME THE BLACK CAULDRON!

HEE, HEE...YES, MASTER! IT SHALL BE AS YOU WISH! THE CAULDRON...HO!

MOMENTS LATER, THE IMPS AND CREATURES OF THE NETHER WORLD PREPARED THE PROPER MIXTURE.

IT'S DONE, MIGHTY ONE! THE FLUID HAS BEEN MIXED WITH THE INGREDIENTS YOU DIRECTED!

NOW, I TAKE THE VIAL CONTAINING GREED--

...AND THEN I POUR IT EVER SO SLOWLY, INTO THE CAULDRON, WITH THESE WORDS-- "BOIL, BUBBLE--GREAT TROUBLE...TEMPT, LURE--WITH GREAT ALLURE--THE ONE WHOSE DESIRE NEEDS THE FIRE OF GREED"! HA, HA.....

AIIEEE! GREAT MASTER--IT WILL DESTROY US ALL! BID IT STOP! AIIEEE!

GET THEE BEHIND ME, DOGS! WE SHALL HAVE OUR WITCH!

AS THE FIRES SPRANG EVER HIGHER, IT'S RUMBLE SHOOK THE EARTH UNTIL ONE OF ITS FRINGES OF OF THE QUAKES SPREAD TO THE SURFACE AND IMPERCEPTIVELY ENTERED THE BODY OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL....

BUT LEONA-- WHY WON'T YOU MARRY ME? WE'VE LOVED EACH OTHER SINCE CHILDHOOD!

--BECAUSE I--I CAN'T, PAUL! DON'T ASK ME!

YOU WANT MONEY, LEONA! YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED WEALTH---AND YOU KNOW THAT I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU! ALL I OFFER IS MY LOVE!

THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, PAUL! PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND! COUNT DRASKA HAS ASKED FOR MY HAND!

LEONA IS RIGHT AS USUAL, PAUL! WE ARE TO BE MARRIED VERY SHORTLY. SHE WILL GROW TO LOVE ME IN RETURN FOR THE SECURITY I PROMISE HER!

ALL RIGHT! GO AHEAD, BUT MARK MY WORDS-- --OF GREED AND EVIL-- NOTHING BUT EVIL WILL COME OF IT!

SO COUNT DRASKA AND LEONA WERE MARR ED...
THERE SHE IS FELLOWS! THERE IS THE G.RL I PLEDGED MY LOVE FOR-- AND SHE BETRAYED ME FOR AN OLD TOAD!
AY! IT IS BETTER YOU DID NOT MARRY HER! SHE HAS THE SIGN OF EVIL UPON HER!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MY SWEET? THE WEDDING IS OVER--BUT THE CELEBRATION FEAST HAS NOT YET BEGUN!
JUST HAVE PATIENCE HUSBAND! I WANT TO WEAR THE JEWEL-ED DRESS TO SHOW THESE PEASANTS MY NEW WEALTH!

I'LL SHOW PAUL AND THOSE OTHER BUMPKINS WHAT IT IS TO MARRY SOMEONE OF IMPORT-ANCE! LOVE, COMPANIONSHIP? BAH! MONEY IS EVERYTHING!

GOOD! SHE IS A TRUE CREATURE FOR OUR RANKS! GOOD! GOOD! HEE, HEE..
W-WHO SAID THAT? WHO S IN HERE?

NO ONE LEONA--ONLY I! HA HA--WELCOME TO OUR COMPANY, LEONA--YOU HAVE PASSED OUR FIRST CRITERION--GREED UNLIMITED! FOR THAT YE SHALL HAVE SEVEN WRINKLES ON YOUR FACE! HA, HA...
OHH--I'M HAVING A NIGHTMARE...

FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT--- BUT NO! I--I MUST POWDER MYSELF AND GO BACK OUT THERE! STRANGE--I NEVER NOTICED THESE WRINKLES BEFORE!

AND DOWN IN HELL, SATAN PLACES HIS VIAL INTO THE BOILING CAULDRON...
OUR FIRST INGREDIENT HAS TAKEN ROOT INTO THE MORTAL'S SOUL--IT IS TIME FOR THE VIAL HATE!
LOOK--LOOK! A GIANT BUBBLE ARISES! MASTER--IT CONTAINS A MOUNTAIN OF HATE!
AND WHEN IT BREAKS, WE SHALL HAVE OUR RECRUIT EVEN CLOSER! HA, HA, HA--
MONTHS PASSED. THE OLD COUNT FOUND HIS WIFE NOT QUITE SO PRETTY AS HE HAD IMAGINED HER TO BE. HE STARTED IGNORING HER...
HUSBAND, DEAR! WILL YOU TAKE ME FOR A RIDE LATE THIS AFTERNOON?
PLEASE DON'T BOTHER ME, WIFE! I AM TOO BUSY!
HO! SADDLE MY HORSE! WE SHALL HAVE A GREAT HUNT TODAY!
HE IS TOO BUSY FOR ME--BUT NOT FOR HIS OTHER FRIENDS...AND OTHER WOMEN! I HATE HIM!
LOOK AT ME! JUST TWENTY-THREE AND ALREADY WRINKLED. WHY DIDN'T I MARRY THE MAN I REALLY LOVED? I--WHAT'S THAT?
HEE, HEE...HA, HA... SOON WE SHALL CALL HER "SISTER!" HA, HA...
YOU ARE TO BECOME EVEN MORE UGLY, LEONA...FORGET THIS INCIDENT!
OHHHH....

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER!

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and SILENCER

FREE 50 Reusable 22 Cal. Pellets only $1.25

Rapid firing 22 cal. fully 9 inches long with the look and feel of an "undercover" automatic. Snap the "silencer" on or remove it for fast combat-type target practice. FREE 50 reusable 22 cal. pellets and supply of targets. Money back guarantee if not satisfied. Just send $1.25 plus 35c for postage and handling.

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FOR AWHILE SHE WAS FEARED AND HATED, HER JUST DUE FROM THE SUSPICIOUS VILLAGERS. THEN HER SERVANTS LEFT HER...
A CURSE ON YOU! COME BACK YOU DOGS! COME BACK!
GRADUALLY THINGS GREW WORSE FOR LEONA. ALL HER MONEY WAS SPENT EVENTUALLY BY UNSCRUPULOUS ATTORNEYS.
NOW THE VILLAGE ITSELF BECAME OPENLY HOSTILE.
WITCH! THERE GOES THE WITCH! YAAH, YAAAH!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
SO HER COURSE WAS INEVITABLE! SHE LEFT HER MANSION, NOW ROTTED, AND LIVED IN A HUT HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS.
WAIL AND MOAN, WIND! A WITCH THEY CALL ME--AND A WITCH I SHALL BE! EVIL TO THOSE DOWN BELOW-- EVIL AND DESPAIR! HEE, HEE...
DAYS AND MONTHS FOLLOWED, AND LEONA BEGAN HER APPRENTICESHIP FOR THE DAMNED.
BOIL AND BUBBLE! HEE, HEE-- THE SPELL IS CAST-- I SHALL SOON JOIN THE SISTER-HOOD OF EVIL! HEE, HEE...
AND THEN THERE CAME A KNOCK...
WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR? IT IS MIDNIGHT!
IT IS I, LEONA....SATAN MEPHISTO! YOU HAVE PASSED THE TESTS! YOU ARE ONE OF US! WELCOME TO ETERNAL DAMNATION AND TORTURE...HA, HA, HA....
the end